

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
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To: ADs, SDs, and CDS

From: Director

Subject: Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month is being observed from September 15 to October 15, 1997. The theme of this year's observance is "Excellence in Education: Building Opportunities for our Youth". The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proud to join with the Nation in celebrating the contributions of Hispanics and all Spanish-speaking peoples to American society.

As we now prepare to implement our new Diversity/Affirmative Employment Program Plan for Fiscal Years 1998-2000, and the BLM's Strategic Plan, Hispanic Heritage Month provides us with a timely and appropriate opportunity to reflect on the expanding diversity of both our country and the BLM's workforce. It compels us to focus on the future and, in particular, the continually evolving role of the BLM as one of America's foremost natural resource managers. It is clear that the future will encompass the increasing participation of all Americans in the operations of government and will require the careful preparation of our youth to assume responsibility for the stewardship and protection of the public lands.

For BLM employees, Hispanic Heritage Month provides a time to put the day-to-day work of the bureau aside momentarily and participate in the many commemorative observances of Hispanic history and culture that are typically held within and outside of the Federal establishment. Managers, supervisors and all BLM employees are encouraged to support and participate in such activities.

On behalf of the BLM, we salute our Hispanic employees who, through their dedication and professionalism, distinguish themselves year in and year out by providing the highest levels of service and dedication to the management of the Nation's public resources.

Signed by:
Pat Shea
Director

Authenticated by:
Robert M. Williams
Directives and Records
Group, WO540